

**The Crucible, Act I**, by Arthur Miller**Selection Test A****Critical Reading** *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

- \_\_\_ 1. What does the background information that describes arguments about deeds and boundaries in *The Crucible, Act I*, prepare you for?
- A. Reverend Parris's anger over not being given firewood
  - B. the real story about what went on with the girls in the woods
  - C. John Procter's attempt to deny his lust for Abigail
  - D. Putnam's and Procter's disagreement over a piece of land
- \_\_\_ 2. Based on the background information from *The Crucible, Act I* that describes children who had to "walk straight, eyes slightly lowered . . . mouths shut until bidden to speak," what kind of life do you think children in Salem had?
- A. joyful
  - B. wild
  - C. joyless
  - D. educated
- \_\_\_ 3. What is the setting of *The Crucible*?
- A. Salem, Massachusetts, today
  - B. England today
  - C. England in the 1600s
  - D. Salem, Massachusetts, in the 1600s
- \_\_\_ 4. In *The Crucible, Act I*, Reverend Parris acts concerned about his daughter, but what is the true motive for his concern?
- A. fear that she will lose her soul
  - B. fear for his reputation
  - C. fear that she will die
  - D. fear that he will become ill
- \_\_\_ 5. According to *The Crucible, Act I*, what did Puritans believe about slaves?
- A. They believed slaves would fight for freedom.
  - B. They believed slaves should be freed.
  - C. They believed slaves were uncivilized.
  - D. They believed slaves were their equals.

- \_\_\_ 6. In *The Crucible*, Act I, what frightening reason does Mrs. Putnam have that motivates her to hunt for witches?
- A. anger at Reverend Parris
  - B. curiosity about the woods
  - C. the deaths of her children
  - D. sympathy for the ill children
- \_\_\_ 7. In *The Crucible*, Act I, which of the young women has the most influence over the others?
- A. Mercy
  - B. Tituba
  - C. Abigail
  - D. Mary
- \_\_\_ 8. In *The Crucible*, Act I, what can the reader infer about Salem, based on the information that Giles asks Reverend Hale why his wife is hiding books and reading them?
- A. Salem residents were well educated.
  - B. Reading books was a suspicious activity.
  - C. More women read books than men.
  - D. Women and men read books together.
- \_\_\_ 9. Based on *The Crucible*, Act I, what seems to motivate Abigail's actions?
- A. her wish to protect her uncle
  - B. her wish to help Betty
  - C. her wish to leave Salem
  - D. her wish to have power
- \_\_\_ 10. In *The Crucible*, Act I, why is John Proctor guilty about Abigail?
- A. He has refused to hire her.
  - B. He has seduced and abandoned her.
  - C. He has accused her of witchcraft.
  - D. He has thrown her out of the church.

### Vocabulary and Grammar

- \_\_\_ 11. Which word best replaces *ingratiating* in this sentence: "The child was *ingratiating* at first, but people then learned she was really not so nice"?
- A. skilled
  - B. charming
  - C. fearful
  - D. annoying

\_\_\_ 12. Which sentence contains the correct form of the italicized pronoun?

- A. You treat her better than *I*.
- B. He's a good farmer, but not nearly as good as *them*.
- C. He is two years older than *I*.
- D. We think she is more innocent than *them*.

**Essay**

13. As you read *The Crucible*, you learn how much importance Abigail Williams has in the events that occur. After Elizabeth Proctor tells her to leave their house, Abigail tells John Proctor, "You loved me then and you do now!" What do these words tell you about Abigail and how she might behave during the rest of the play? Write a brief essay to respond.
14. In the first act of *The Crucible*, numerous accusations of witchcraft are made by various characters. What do you learn in Act I that helps account for such an outbreak of hysterical accusations? Write a brief essay to explain the characters' need to accuse each other.